

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/729,569

Examiner

Ellen C. Tran

Applicant(s)

KUSAKABE ET AL.

Art Unit

2134

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 29 August 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 3, 5-6, 27-28 and 7-26 (renumbered as 1-26 respectively).
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☒ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/729,569.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>6 Nov. 2006</u> . |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

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1. In response to amendment filed on 29 August 2006 and Examiner Initiated Interview on 6 November 2006, the amendment to the claims is accepted.

2. An examiner's amendment to the record is attached. Please enter entire claim set. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be

(R) submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee. The examiner's amendment to ~~amend~~ claims 1, 3, 5-9, 11, 14, 16, 18, 20-22, 27, and 28; was authorized by attorney of record Thomas C. Basso in phone interview on 6 November 2006. Please enter attached Exam Ault

Reasons for Allowance

3. Claims 1, 3, and 5-28 are allowed over the prior art of record.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

In interpreting the claims in light of the specification and applicant's argument, the Amendment filed 29 August 2006, as well as Examiner's Amendment attached. Examiner finds the claimed invention is patentable distinct from the prior art of record.

The prior art of record, Sehr introducing a travel system and methods that encompass a plurality of service providers and multi-application passenger cards so as to automatically compile, issue, utilize, and process the portable passenger cards for traveling purposes, purchase of travel-related goods and services, and for implementation of other cards-based applications.

The prior art of record, Sehr fail to anticipate or render Applicant's particular feature that

“the access-information including information which permits admission to a predetermined place ... wherein the first portable electronic device is associated with the user, and the access-information stored on said first portable electronic device is transferable by the user to other portable electronic devices associated with other users”

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The dependent claims, being further limiting to the independent claims, defined and enabled by the Specification are also allowed.

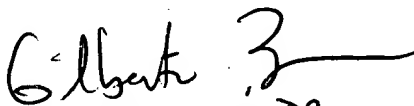
4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ellen C Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-3842. The examiner can normally be reached from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jacques H. Louis-Jacques can be reached on (571) 272-6962. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ECT
Ellen. Tran
Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2134
2 November 2006


GILBERTO BARRON JR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An [[right]]access-information distribution method comprising the steps of:

generating [[right]]access-information and verification information for authenticating the validity of a first portable electronic device when the [[right]]access-information is stored in said first portable electronic device, the access-information including information which permits admission to a predetermined place;

generating an [[right]]access code by encrypting the [[right]]access-information and the verification information, wherein said [[right]]access code is provided to a user offline;

communicating the [[right]]access code to said first portable electronic device by wirelessly coupling a second portable electronic device to said first portable electronic device, wherein said second portable electronic device is operable independent of a connection status of said second portable electronic device, the generated [[right]]access code being represented in at least one of an audible and visible form to input the [[right]]access code into said first portable electronic device by the user;

decrypting the [[right]]access code communicated to said first portable electronic device and using the verification information to authenticate the [[right]]access-information based on the decrypted [[right]]access code; and

storing the authenticated [[right]]access-information in said first portable electronic device,

wherein the first portable electronic device is associated with the user, and the [[right]]access-information stored on said first portable electronic device is transferable by a the user to other portable electronic devices associated with other users.

Claim 2 (canceled).

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Claim 3 (Currently Amended): An access-information distribution method according to Claim 1, wherein said first portable electronic device is an integrated circuit card and said second portable electronic device includes an input means.

Claim 4 (Canceled)

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): An access-information distribution method according to Claim 3, wherein the storing of the access-information is performed when said first portable electronic device and said second portable electronic device are electromagnetically coupled with each other.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): An access-information distribution method according to Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

inputting a first access code added to the access-information, and an identification number for returning the access-information to a source of the access-information; and

after confirming the input first access code and the input identification number, confirming an offline-providable second access code for returning the access-information to said source of the access-information, and invalidating said first access code.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): An access-information distribution method for transferring access-information from a first portable electronic device to a second portable electronic device, the access-information distribution method comprising the steps of:

generating the access-information and verification information for authenticating the validity of said first portable electronic device when the

access[[right]]-information is stored in said first portable electronic device, the access-information including information which permits admission to a predetermined place;

generating a first access[[right]] code by encrypting the access[[right]]-information and the verification information, wherein said first access[[right]] code is provided to a user offline;

enabling the user to wirelessly input the first access[[right]] code and identification number of said second portable electronic device directly into said first portable electronic device independently of a connection status of said second portable electronic device, the generated first access[[right]] code being represented to the user in at least one of an audible and visible form;

confirming the wireless input of the first access[[right]] code and the wireless input of the identification number;

invalidating the first access[[right]] code and generating a second [[right]]access code, wherein said second [[right]]access code is provided to the user offline;

enabling the user to input the second [[right]]access code into said second portable electronic device independently of the connection status of said second portable electronic device, the generated second [[right]]access code being represented to the user in at least one of an audible and visible form;

decoding the offline-provided second [[right]]access code inputted into the portable electronic device and authenticating the decoded second [[right]]access code; and

storing the [[right]]access-information included in the authenticated second [[right]]access code in said second portable electronic device,

wherein the first portable electronic device is associated with the user, and the [[right]]access-information stored on said first portable electronic device is transferable by a the user to other portable electronic devices associated with other users.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): An information distribution system comprising:

a portable electronic device; and

an information management apparatus configured to store (i) access-information that indicates a predetermined access and (ii) device information corresponding to said portable electronic device that indicates to whom the predetermined access belongs, wherein said information distribution system manages the location of said predetermined access by updating the access-information stored by said information management apparatus and the device information indicating to whom said predetermined access belongs; said information management apparatus comprising:

information holding means for holding the access-information;

access means for recording the transfer of said predetermined access to said portable electronic device by accessing said information holding means and updating the access-information held by said information holding means;

encryption means for generating encrypted information by using a code unique to said portable electronic device to encrypt the device information indicating to whom said access belongs to be in an offline providable form; and

information providing means for providing said portable electronic device with the encrypted information so that the encrypted information passes through an offline channel at least once; and said portable electronic device comprises:

power supply;

input means for wirelessly accepting the input of the encrypted information into said portable electronic device independently of a connection status of said portable electronic device, the generated encrypted information represented to a user in at least one of an audible and visible form;

decryption means for decrypting the encrypted information using said unique code and outputting the information indicating to whom said access belongs;

recording means for recording the output information indicating to whom said access belongs; and

information output means for using a predetermined access means to output the recorded information indicating to whom said access belongs,

wherein the first portable electronic device is associated with the user, and the [[right]]access-information stored on said first portable electronic device is transferable by a the user to other portable electronic devices associated with other users.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): An information distribution system according to Claim 8, wherein said device information indicating to whom said [[right]]access belongs is information for permitting admission to a predetermined place.

Claim 10 (Original): An information distribution system according to Claim 8, wherein said information management apparatus executes billing in response to the provision of the encrypted information by said information providing means.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): An information distribution system according to Claim 8, wherein said portable electronic device comprises:

information generating means for generating information for requesting the transfer of said [[right]]access based on the information recorded in said recording means;

means for generating encrypted transfer information by using a code unique to encrypt the information for requesting the transfer of said [[right]]access so that the encrypted transfer information is provided offline;

control means for controlling the accessing of the information recorded in said recording means in response to the encryption by said encryption means;

output means for outputting the encrypted transfer information so that the encrypted transfer information passes through an offline channel at least once; and

said information management apparatus further comprises a decryption means for decrypting the encrypted transfer information, and updates [[right]]access-information which corresponds to the output of said decryption means by using said access means to access said information holding means in response to the output of said decryption means.

Claim 12 (Original): An information distribution system according to Claim 11, wherein said information management apparatus executes billing in response to the provision of the encrypted information by the information providing means, and changes the billing in response to the encrypted transfer information.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): An information distribution system according to Claim 11, wherein said portable electronic device comprises:

encryption means for generating second encrypted information based on the information recorded in said recording means by using a code unique to a second portable electronic device so that the second encrypted information is provided off line;

control means for controlling the accessing of the information recorded in said recording means in response to the encryption by said encryption means; and

output means for outputting the second encrypted information so that the second encrypted information is provided to the second portable electronic device after passing through an offline channel at least once; and the second portable electronic device performs the processing of the second encrypted information, which is identical to the processing of the encrypted information by said portable electronic device.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): An information management method for updating [[right]]access-information held by an information management apparatus and for recording in a portable electronic device information indicating to whom said [[right]]access belongs, managing said [[right]]access so as to be exercised when said portable electronic device is with a user, wherein said information management method controls said information management apparatus to perform the steps of:

generating encrypted information in an offline providable form using a code unique to said portable electronic device to encrypt the portable electronic device information indicating to whom said [[right]]access belongs;

providing the encrypted information so that the encrypted information passes through an offline channel at least once; and

enabling the wireless input of said encrypted information into said portable electronic device independently of a connection status of said portable electronic device, the generated encrypted information represented in at least one of an audible and visible form,

wherein the first portable electronic device is associated with the user, and the [[right]]access-information stored on said first portable electronic device is transferable by a the user to other portable electronic devices associated with other users.

Claim 15 (Original): An information management method according to Claim 14, wherein the billing is performed in response to the provision of the encrypted information.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): An information management method according to Claim 14, wherein said information management method controls said portable electronic device to perform the steps of:

generating encrypted transfer information by using a unique code to encrypt information for requesting the transfer of said [[right]]access so that the encrypted transfer information is provided offline; and

preventing the information indicating to whom said [[right]]access belongs from being output, and transmitting the encrypted transfer information to said information management apparatus so that the encrypted transfer information passes through the offline channel at least once.

Claim 17 (Original): An information management method according to Claim 16, wherein said information management method controls said image management apparatus to perform the steps of:

executing a billing process in response to the provision of the encrypted information; and changing said billing process in response to the encrypted transfer information.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): An information management method according, to Claim 14, wherein said information management method controls said portable electronic device to perform the steps of:

generating second encrypted information based on the information indicating to whom said ~~[[right]]~~access belongs by using a code unique to another portable electronic device so that the second encrypted information is provided offline; and
providing the second encrypted information to the other portable electronic device so that the second encrypted information passes through the offline channel at least once; and
outputting the second encrypted information and preventing the information indicating to whom said ~~[[right]]~~access belongs from being output.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): An information management method according to Claim 18, wherein said portable electronic device includes a read-write device in electromagnetic communication with an integrated circuit card, wherein the input means are included on the read-write device.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): An information management method according to Claim 18, wherein the information indicating to whom said ~~[[right]]~~access belongs is information for allowing said user to enter an event place.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): A method of distributing information, the method comprising:

providing a first portable device;
generating ~~[[right]]~~access-information representative of a user ~~[[right]]~~access, the access-information including information which permits admission to a predetermined place;
generating verification information for authenticating the validity of the ~~[[right]]~~access-information and the first portable electronic device;

storing the access-information and the verification information on the first portable device;

encrypting the access-information and the verification information to generate a access code;

providing a second portable device, the second portable device configured to wirelessly communicate with the first portable device;

inputting the access code into the second portable device and wirelessly communicating the access code to the first portable electronic;

decrypting the access-information and the verification information based on the access code communicated to the first portable electronic device, and

utilizing the verification information to authenticate the access-information stored on the first portable electronic device; and

storing the authenticated access-information on the first portable electronic device,

wherein the first portable electronic device is associated with the user, and the access-information stored on said first portable electronic device is transferable by a the user to other portable electronic devices associated with other users.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 21 further comprising providing an indication of the access code to a user.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 22, wherein the indication is an audible indication or a visible indication.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 21, wherein said first portable electronic device is an integrated circuit card and said second portable electronic device includes an input device.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 21, wherein providing the second portable device includes electromagnetically coupling the second portable device to the first portable device.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 25, wherein electromagnetically coupling the second portable device to the first portable device provides driving power to the second portable device.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): An access-information distribution method according to Claim 1, wherein the access-information stored on said first portable electronic device is transferable by the user to a second portable electronic device associated with a second user by generating a second access code by encrypting the access-information and second verification information, wherein the second access code is provided to the second user offline.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): An access-information distribution method according to Claim 1, wherein inputting the access code into said first portable electronic device by the user includes:

the user sensing the access code represented in at least one of the audible and visible form;

the user manually inputting the access code into an input device of the second portable electronic device; and

transmitting the access code to the first portable electronic device from the second portable electronic device.